

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LAGOS 07204 291411Z

50

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OPR-02 OC-05 CCO-00 CU-02 EB-07 SCS-03

SY-05 USSS-00 MC-02 (ISO) W
----- 119781

P 291052Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 410

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAGOS 7204

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINS, PINT, NI

SUBJ: COUP

1. LOCAL AP CORRESPONDENT BRIAN JEFFRIES HAS REQUESTED EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN TRANSMITTING AP REPORT NIGERIA COUP. DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO PASS FOLLOWING STORY TO AP BUREAU WASHINGTON.

2. "LAGOS, NIGERIA (AP) -- NIGERIAN HEAD OF STATE, GEN. YAKUBU GOWON WAS OVERTHROWN IN A BLOODLESS MILITARY COUP, RADIO NIGERIA ANNOUNCED HERE EARLY WEDNESDAY. THE COUP WAS CARRIED OUT WHILE GEN. GOWON, WHO HAS RULED NIGERIA FOR THE PAST NINE YEARS, WAS ATTENDING THE OAU SUMMIT IN KAMPALA. COL. JOSEPH GARBA, COMMANDER OF THE ELITE BRIGADE OF GUARDS, WHO GUARD THE OFFICIAL RESIDENCE IN LAGOS OF GOWON, ANNOUNCED THE COUP ON RADIO IN PRETAPED RECORDING THROUGHOUT THE MORNING. HE SAID: "FELLOW COUNTRYMEN, I JOSEPH GARBA IN CONSULTATION WITH MY COLLEAGUES, DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT IN VIEW OF WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING IN THE COUNTRY IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS, THE NIGERIAN ARMED FORCES HAVE DECIDED TO EFFECT A CHANGE IN THE LEADERSHIP OF THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT. FROM NOW ON, GEN. YAKUBU GOWON CEASE TO BE THE HEAD OF THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES OF NIGERIA. THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS ADVISED TO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LAGOS 07204 291411Z

BE CALM AND GO ABOUT THEIR LAWFUL DUTIES." GARBA ORDERED

WORKERS IN ESSENTIAL SERVICES, SUCH AS ELECTRICITY PLANTS, HOSPITALS, WATERWORKS AND PORTS AND POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS TO REPORT TO WORK. A DUSK TO DAWN CURFEW WAS ALSO IMPOSED. THE NATION'S BORDERS AND AIRPORTS HAVE BEEN CLOSED AND COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD CUT OFF. GARBA IN HIS RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT SAID IT HAD BEEN A BLOODLESS COUP BUT WARNED NIGERIANS TO REMAIN LAW ABIDING. HE ADDED: "ANYONE CAUGHT DISTURBING PUBLIC ORDER WILL BE SUMMARILY DEALT WITH." MEANWHILE, NIGERIANS REMAINED CLOSE TO THEIR RADIO SETS FOR FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS. LAGOS APPEARED QUIET WITH PEOPLE GATHERING IN SMALL GROUPS TO DISCUSS THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE DOWNFALL OF THE GOWON ADMINISTRATION. THE RADIO PLAYED MARTIAL MUSIC AND NORMAL PROGRAMMING WAS COMPLETELY SUSPENDED. SHOPS AND OFFICES REMAINED CLOSED AND FOR THE FIRST TIME FOR THE FIRST WEEKDAY IN MEMORY, CHAOTIC TRAFFIC ON LAGOS ROADS WAS NOT IN EVIDENCE, BUT SOME PUBLIC BUSES WERE RUNNING AS WERE TAXIS. UNTIL EARLY MORNING WHEN WORD SPREAD QUICKLY MANY NIGERIANS WERE UNAWARE OF THE COUP AND HAD ALREADY STARTED OUT FOR WORK."

CROSBY

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED AP BUREAU WASHINGTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, PRESS RELEASES, POLITICAL SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LAGOS07204
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750261-0859
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750713/aaaaalnk.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 AUG 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <15 DEC 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COUP
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, PINT, NI, (GOWAN, YAKUBU), (GARBA, JOSEPH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006